

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 205162
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCE-00 PM-05 INR-10 SP-02 /030 R

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APPROVED BY EA/K: MR. RICH
PM/MC: MR. DARBY
-----090828 142031Z /62
R 141935Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 205162

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ESTC, MILI, KS, US

SUBJECT: NDPC REQUEST FOR ROKG BRIEFING

REF: SEOUL 7085

1. BLAKEMORE DISCUSSED THE SUBJECT REQUEST WITH FEDOR AUGUST 14. FEDOR'S REQUEST IS NOT DIRECTLY CONNECTED TO THE FORMAL NDPC DECISION ON THE LEVEL OF DISCLOSURE ALLOWABLE FOR KOREA. RATHER, FEDOR WAS HIGHLY IMPRESSED WITH THE ROK PRESENTATION AND WOULD LIKE TO USE IT TO RAISE THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF NDPC MEMBERS ABOUT KOREAN CAPABILITIES. FEDOR BELIEVES THAT THE KOREANS WOULD BE FLATTERED BY HIS REQUEST. HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT TRAVEL OF A ROK OFFICER FROM SEOUL FOR THIS PURPOSE IS JUSTIFIED, HOWEVER. RATHER THE PRESENTATION COULD BE MADE BY AN OFFICER OF THE ROK DAO'S OFFICE IN WASHINGTON. SINCE THE NEXT NDPC MEETING IS-SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 17,
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FEDOR BELIEVES IT WOULD BE MORE REALISTIC TO SHOOT FOR A ROK BRIEFING AT THE MIDSEPTEMBER NDPC MEETING.

2. BEGIN FYI: WE LEARNED FROM THE CONVERSATION WITH FEDOR THAT THE DECISION TO UPGRADE THE LEVEL OF DISCLOSURE FOR KOREA TO SECRET HAS IN FACT ALREADY BEEN MADE, AND IS BEING IMPLEMENTED. THE NATURE OF THIS

DECISION IS SUCH THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO FORMALLY

INFORM THE ROKG OF IT, BUT THEY SHOULD SOON BE ABLE TO
DEDUCE IT FROM THE LEVEL OF MATERIAL WHICH THEY ARE
ALLOWED TO HANDLE. END FYI.

3. PURSUANT TO FEDOR'S REQUEST, THE EMBASSY SHOULD RAISE
THE SUBJECT OF A BRIEFING OF THE NDPC WITH THE ROKG.
DRAWING ON THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN PARA 1 ABOVE, YOU
SHOULD EMPHASIZE THE VOLUNTARY NATURE OF THE REQUEST AND
PORTRAY IT AS A CHANCE TO GIVE THE NDPC FIRST HAND
EXPOSURE TO THE EXCELLENT ROK PROGRAM IN THIS FIELD.

CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEBRIEFINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE205162
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DBLAKEMORE:LKD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780332-0408
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780866/aaaacdnc.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dfe50d64-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 78 SEOUL 7085
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1746458
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NDPC REQUEST FOR ROKG BRIEFING
TAGS: ESTC, MILI, KS, US, NDPC
To: SEOUL
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dfe50d64-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014